

REMARKS

Claims 27-61 are pending. Claims 27, 37, 42, 46, 49 and 54 are the independent claims. With this amendment, claims 27-41 have been canceled and claims 42, 44, 49 and 51-52 have been amended.

I. Office Action Summary

In the Office Action mailed January 28, 2005, the Examiner cited new references and stated that this non-final action has been provided due to the disqualification of the previously cited Whittaker reference based on the priority date of the present application. The Examiner rejected several of the claims as indicated below:

Claims	Prior Art Reference(s)	Statutory Basis
27-36, 37-39, 42 and 49	Lin (US 5,635,980)	§103(a)
40-41	Lin in view of McHale (US 5,668,857)	§103(a)

The Examiner allowed claims 46-48 and 54-61. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that claims 43-45 and 50-53 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Rejections over Lin

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claims 27-36, 37-39, 42 and 49 over Lin. In order to expedite issuance of a number of the claims, however, Applicant has canceled claims 27-41 and amended claims 42 and 49. Applicant reserves the right to refile the canceled claims, as well as unamended versions of claims 42 and 49, in a continuation application.

B. Rejections over Lin in view of McHale

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 40-41 over Lin in view of McHale, Applicant has canceled these claims in order to expedite allowance of the remaining claims. Applicant reserves the right to refile claims 40-41 in a continuation application.

III. Examiner's Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the Examiner's allowance of claims 46-48 and 54-61, as well as the indication of allowability of claims 43-45 and 50-53 if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended independent claim 42 to incorporate the features of objected-to claim 43. Dependent claim 44 has been amended to correct its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 43. Applicant submits that the scope of claims 44 and 45 remains the same. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 42 and 44-45 are in condition for allowance.

Similarly, Applicant has amended independent claim 49 to incorporate the features of objected-to claim 50. Dependent claims 51-52 have been amended to correct their dependencies in view of the cancellation of claim 50. Applicant submits that the scope of claims 51-53 remains the same. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 49 and 51-53 are also in condition for allowance.

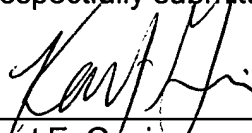
IV. Conclusion

With the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 42, 44-49, and 51-61 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below in order to expedite disposition of this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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